

Record

THE BAPTIST

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

MEMBER OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-3620

ED SINCE 1877

ARCH 6, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 10

MAR 11 2008

Meeting moved

The Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) Annual Missions Celebration has been moved from April 18-19 to August 22-23. It will be held during celebration sessions of Missions Leadership Training at Garaywa Camp & Convention Center in Clinton, rather than First Church, Richland, which was previously announced.

World Changers changed missionary

BARTLETT, Tn. (Special) — For nine years now, Jon Hodge has been in the neighborhood-changing business, and while he's changing neighborhoods, he's also working with God's help to change hearts, minds, and souls.

Based out of Bartlett, Tn. just northeast of Memphis, Jon and Linda Hodge are national missionaries for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), an assignment that takes Jon to middle Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, southern Illinois, and Alaska.

Hodge manages a big chunk of NAMB's nationwide World Changers ministry. Created in 1990, World Changers is a pre-packaged mission experience that enables middle schoolers through collegians and adults to donate a week of their summers to rehabilitate substandard housing and share Christ.

Last summer, some 25,000 World Changers participants partnered with 1,100 churches in 88 separate projects across the United States, which resulted in 900 decisions for Christ and the repair and renovation of 1,700 homes.

The Hodges are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions. They are one of eight NAMB missionary couples highlighted as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 2-9.

This year's theme is "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The 2008 AAEO goal is \$61 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like the Hodges.

Responsible for planning and coordinating 13-17 different World Changers



MINISTRY IN ACTION — Jon Hodge, who manages a large chunk of North American Mission Board (NAMB) World Changers summer projects, installs a new window while helping to renovate a house near Wade, Ms., in the southeastern part of the state. (NAMB photo by William Starling)

projects in the five states he represents, Hodge spends many months prior to the actual summer project months picking cities and meeting with city officials, school officials, city economic leaders, and homeowners to choose the renovation projects. He also must ensure that his World Changers participants have a place to stay, get fed, serve, and share.

Hodge also selects and trains about 25 college students who serve as summer staff volunteers for four to five World Changers projects, traveling from site to site. The projects are in lower-income neighborhoods of cities large and small.

Regardless of the project venue, Hodge said the first questions the World Changers always get from local residents are, "Why are you here?" or "Why are you doing this?"

"We're able to share with them that we're doing this because we love Jesus, and Jesus called us to go, serve and help people," Hodge said.

Prior to his appointment as a NAMB national missionary, Hodge worked as a coach, truck driver, and Krispy Kreme Doughnut route salesman. Before his call to full-time missions work, Hodge also served as a youth and recreation minister for 11 years in Tennessee and Illinois churches.

"My call to missions came after I took a youth group to a World Changers project in Alabama. The more I became involved on the leadership side of World Changers as a project coordinator and speaker, the stronger the call I felt to be involved in missions.

"I had taken the group to Alabama to rehab the homes of several low-income homeowners. I thought I was going to change their world by repairing their homes and sharing the love of Christ with them, but not only were their lives changed, my life was changed," Hodge said.

After a hard day of installing a new roof or scraping and painting a house in summer's heat, the World Changers spend evenings after dinner in worship services led by student ministers and music leaders, also volunteers.

"World Changers makes my day, my summer," Hodge said. "It's exciting. I have one of the best jobs in the world. I thank the Lord everyday that I'm a Southern Baptist missionary."

Hodge said he wants to thank "those people who give Annie Armstrong Easter Offerings sacrificially. Because of them, I don't have to come back from the field worried about whether I have food on the table back at home or whether my family is being taken care of. I can go out and do the ministry I've been called to do.

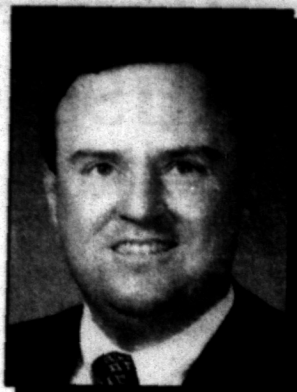
"Southern Baptists need to be involved in World Changers because it's an opportunity for us to be out there and to touch people's lives. I've seen this program open up doors that through other avenues, we couldn't open up."



1
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Dale Chain
Cain Lithographers

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
Jimmy McFatter, Amory
Billie Buckley, Petal
James Bates, Gulfport
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 132 • NUMBER 10
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Surveying a world in need of change

According to a fascinating new survey and study released by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Southern Baptists comprise a growing and important number of the total American population.

It's time we started acting like we understood the importance of that statistic.

"The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, launched in 2001, seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs," states the Forum's web site. "The Forum pursues its mission by delivering timely, impartial information to national opinion leaders, including government officials and journalists. As a nonpartisan, non-advocacy organization, the Forum does not take positions on policy debates."

The secular Forum, based in Washington, D.C., is a project of the Pew Research Center, which describes itself as a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world." The Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Pew Charitable Trusts is an independent nonprofit organization, endowed beginning in 1948 by the children of Sun Oil Company founder Joseph N. Pew and his wife Mary Anderson Pew.

Whew! That was a mouthful but needed to be stated, because it is important that we fully understand the sources of information we read and on which we could potentially craft decisions.

Southern Baptists are the largest evangelical Protestant group in the country at 8.7%, and second only to Roman Catholics (23.9%) among all religious groups, according to the Pew Forum's U.S. Religious Landscape Survey (hereinafter referred to as the survey). The survey was conducted

nationwide among a representative sample of more than 35,000 adults in the U.S., from May 8-Aug. 13, 2007.

Pentecostals were second among evangelical Protestant groups, at 3.4%. In the category of Mainline Tradition groups, Methodists were number one at 5.4%.

The evangelical Protestant group was the largest represented in the survey at 26.3%, while Mainline tradition groups stood at 18.1%. In total, 78.4% of survey respondents fit in the "Christian" category, while Protestants made up 51.3% of that category.

There are many revealing aspects to this secular survey of religious affiliations in America, but one of the figures that really stands out and should alarm us is 16.1% — the percentage of survey respondents who characterized themselves as "Unaffiliated," meaning they told surveyors they were atheist, agnostic, or nothing at all. The "Don't Know" category added another .8%.

That means the survey's Unaffiliated and Don't Know respondents are comprised of more people percentage-wise than the top 20 evangelical Protestant groups, and practically all the Mainline Tradition groups.

We've got our work cut out for us, don't we?

God has richly blessed Southern Baptists in every area of our corporate spiritual life, from the creation of the brilliant Cooperative Program, to the institutions He has built, to the global missions for which He has cleared the way for us. It's no accident that we are as large as we are.

"SIR, COULD YOU TELL ME WHICH RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION YOU ARE — UH — AGAINST?"



"Change" is a word that is getting a lot of play in the ongoing political campaign for President of the United States. However, it's time we started acting as if we believe Southern Baptists are one of the largest and most powerful resources for change in the history of mankind, for God has given us the power to change our world through the Good News of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20).

Changing the world may seem an impossible task, but God has given Southern Baptists the opportunity to do just that. We need only believe that we can do anything through the One who strengthens us daily for the task to which He has called us.

Let's get to work.

Second in a two-part series

In 1790, Baptists became the largest denomination in America, only to be surpassed by the Methodists in 1820. Baptist growth was achieved by multiplying small associations on the expanding frontier. These associations sent itinerant preachers to "deserted" places — places where people had settled but churches had not been established. These itinerants preached the Gospel and gathered believers into churches.

With few exceptions, these preachers made their living in vocations other than preaching. They were bivocational, a term currently used among Southern Baptist Anglo-American churches. They were Messengers of the Word, the title often used among ethnic-American congregations, because bivocational does not always translate or communicate in another language. They were evangelists, church planters, and pastors.

Today, Baptists are once again the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, and the working preacher is still with us, almost 17,000 strong. Thirty-five percent of all Southern Baptist Convention churches have pastors whose livelihoods come from second vocations. This figure does not include at least

GUEST OPINION:



Consider Bivocational Ministry

By Dale Holloway
MBCB Bivocational Specialist

2,500 pastors of mission congregations who have secular employment (Charles L. Chaney, Missions USA February 1993).

I want to share with you some of the joys and frustrations of bivocational ministry. One frustration with which we struggle is that of physical and mental fatigue. As we end our work week in our secular jobs, we hear fellow employees exclaiming, "Thank the Lord, it's Friday! We can relax on Saturday."

Bivocational ministers can't say those words. Our burden of visitation, outreach, church work, and sermon preparation intensifies toward the end of the week. In all sincerity, we wake up on Monday morning saying, "Thank the Lord, it's Monday!"

A second frustration involves our ego, a sensitive concern about our self-image. As bivocational ministers, we reach a time

in our lives when we realize we never will make it to "First Church." As we drive past a big church we may experience some envy and say "I wish I could pastor a large church." We long for an opportunity to put all our energies into church work.

Bivocational ministers know the members of their congregation in a deeply personal way. The congregations we work with generally are small. Being small has its advantages. When our church members are sick or have problems, we usually will know. We can know the names of every child. We sense the heartbeat of the people. We can know people in such an intimate way when we serve a small congregation.

Another joy in bivocational service comes at the point of equipping church members for their ministry. A bivocational church setting almost

forces the members to do more. The members know their bivocational pastor can't do everything. The members of a bivocational church feel a greater obligation to minister.

Every Southern Baptist Church could be strengthened, and every ministry person could be connected to ministry if we would take advantage of the biblical plan of using the gifts of every believer in Kingdom Work.

The Holy Spirit has gifted every member of the body of Christ for his or her ministry in the world. No disciple is left out. All have received at least one spiritual gift, and every believer has a God-given ministry that only he or she can fulfill.

Sometimes people feel called to serve God in a church vocation, and yet have talents, interests, and aptitudes that may not fit into traditional ministry patterns. God gave them those talents, interests and aptitudes.

A second vocation may provide their best approach for using the gifts and talents that God has given them. Sometimes such persons need to be encouraged to consider bivocational ministries as a vocation.

Holloway may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: bivoldr@nol.com.

Missionary stretches ministries in Big Sky

BIG SKY, Mt. (Special)— Because his mission field is based in Big Sky, Mt., where Lone Mountain stretches 11,000 feet high, Brad Lartigue reports to work every day sky-high — geographically and spiritually.

For 20 years, Lartigue has served as a North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary, the last 17 as a resort missionary in Big Sky during the ski season in winter and at Yellowstone National Park in summer. Big Sky is nestled near three interconnected mountains, high in Montana's Gallatin National Forest. Lartigue is one of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions. He is one of eight NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 2-9.

This year's theme is, "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The 2008 AAEO goal is \$61 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like Brad.

"My place of work is basically the outdoors," Lartigue said. "Our sanctuary is in the mountains that rise above us, among the trees and the animals that God has created. That's where worship happens for us."

"I believe that my area of special ministries in resort and leisure settings is a good place to present the Gospel to people," he said. "After all, our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the example and foundation for ministering to people outside the walls of the church."

"Jesus spoke to the multitudes from the bow of a boat, from the mountainsides, in the gardens, in the marketplaces. He met people where they were, in times of work and play. It's a wonderful thing to have the opportunity of using God's creation as a ministry tool to point people past that creation and toward the Creator."

Supported and commissioned by NAMB and the Montana Southern Baptist Convention, Lartigue leads worship services and campfire devotionals, marries couples, dedicates babies, and even conducts funeral services on the powdery snow of Big Sky. He witnesses to tourists who wouldn't be caught dead inside the walls of a brick-and-mortar church.

During the peak ski season between Thanksgiving and Easter, some 5,000-6,000 people a day come to Big Sky to challenge the world-class ski slopes, which get blanketed by 400 inches of new snow each year.

"Every Sunday when I ride the chairlift going up the mountain to do my worship service, I meet people who have no intention of going to a worship service," he said. "They're coming to find a place for recreation and to relax, not for a place of worship or for a minister but when I ride the chair lift, I never ride without speaking to someone about why they are here and what we are doing here. I think it means a lot to people to see a minister snowboarding, skiing, or cross-country skiing, who takes the effort to hone these skills to meet people where they are."

Citing the Apostle Paul's admonition to "be all things to all people so that we might reach some," Lartigue recently invited a couple of young men on college break to his worship service.

"They saw me on my snowboard and said, 'Oh, you're the shred chaplain.' Shredding is ski slang for snowboarding. I think God gives us passions in our lives that drive us to do the things we do. God has given me the passion to snowboard, cross-country ski, and go backpacking in the wilderness."

"Each of us can reach one because of the various passions He gives us," Lartigue said. "People come here to relax, rest and be rejuvenated, and what better place to do ministry than a place where people can be inspired, because God and his creation are inspiring."

It's a long way from the sultry summers of Lake Charles, La., where Brad was born and raised, to the crystal-blue skies and frosty air of Big Sky, Mt. He grew up in a Christian home in Lake Charles, a bayou town in the heart of southwest Louisiana's Cajun country. His father serves as pastor of a Southern Baptist church there, and his mother is a devoted preacher's wife. One of five children, Brad accepted Christ at age 14.

With a French surname and rich family bloodlines of black, Cherokee Indian, and Italian lineage, Brad is proud of his heritage. Always interested in adventure and public service, Lartigue was active in the Baptist Student Union at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. While at McNeese, he cut his missions teeth while serving as a summer missionary on Hawaii's Big Island and as a US/C2 resort missionary at Taos Ski Valley in New Mexico.

After graduating from McNeese, he attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, where he earned a master's degree in religious education and church recreation. In 1990, he accepted a career missionary position at Big Sky and Yellowstone National Park from NAMB and the Montana Southern Baptist Convention. He's been there ever since.

"When people think of Big Sky or Yellowstone National Park, they think of the beauty and what a pristine place it is," said Lartigue, "but people don't realize that behind the scenes, there are hurting people — people very much disillusioned about who God is. I come across alcoholics, those into drugs, the promiscuous, those whose lives need to change."

As with any Southern Baptist pastor, Sunday is a long and busy work day for Lartigue. "I am part of three worship services on Sundays. I begin the day with an outdoor worship service at 9:30 a.m. at the Moonlight Basin Ski Resort. Then I drive back down to the Big Sky Christian Fellowship worship at 11 a.m., and back up to Mountain Village to conduct the skier/snowboarder worship service in the snow at 1:30 p.m."

After a few hours of skiing or snowboarding, he closes out the day by directing a youth ministry for junior high students on Sunday nights. He also is active in Yellowstone Innovator/park employee worship in campgrounds, hotel worship services, and home Bible studies.

During summer, he shifts the focus of his ministry to Yellowstone about 50 miles away, where he supervises college and seminary volunteers called Innovators, who are full-time summer missionaries appointed by NAMB and sponsored by the First Church of West Yellowstone. The Innovators work full time alongside park employees in a secular environment. They intentionally share their faith in Christ through lifestyle evangelism, Bible studies, hiking, backpacking, and "one-to-one" witnessing.

In October, Brad is a swimming instructor and coach for the local elementary school in Big Sky and a lifeguard instructor in Bozeman, about 45 miles north of Big Sky. With Thanksgiving comes the return of ski season.

Year-round, Lartigue works as a firefighter and chaplain for the Big Sky Volunteer Fire Department. He also is a certified emergency medical technician (EMT), a CPR instructor and a volunteer for the Big Sky Ski Patrol.

Regardless of the hat he wears, he ministers to all, all the time.

What does the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering mean for Brad? "This offering does things in so many different ways, and offers so many different opportunities that we will never, ever see the results until we're in heaven. I feel privileged to be able to minister in a place where I can focus on ministry and not worry about how I'm going to sustain myself."

"I love what I do because it is making an eternal difference in people's lives and I look forward to seeing these people in our heavenly home for all of eternity."



DIFFERENT HATS — When North American Mission Board resort missionary Brad Lartigue is not ministering in the mountains of Big Sky, Mt., or in Yellowstone National Park, he serves as a firefighter, chaplain, and certified emergency medical technician for the Big Sky Volunteer Fire Department. (NAMB photo by Roger Mathis)

What does the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering mean for Brad? "This offering does things in so many different ways, and offers so many different opportunities that we will never, ever see the results until we're in heaven. I feel privileged to be able to minister in a place where I can focus on ministry and not worry about how I'm going to sustain myself."

"I love what I do because it is making an eternal difference in people's lives and I look forward to seeing these people in our heavenly home for all of eternity."

Regardless of the hat he wears, he ministers to all, all the time.

What does the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering mean for Brad? "This offering does things in so many different ways, and offers so many different opportunities that we will never, ever see the results until we're in heaven. I feel privileged to be able to minister in a place where I can focus on ministry and not worry about how I'm going to sustain myself."

"I love what I do because it is making an eternal difference in people's lives and I look forward to seeing these people in our heavenly home for all of eternity."

Looking back

10 years ago

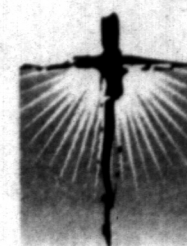
Southern Baptists set a new record in overseas missionary appointments in 1997, for the fifth year in a row, with 628 new missionaries sent.

20 years ago

Describing the Southern Baptist Convention as a denomination "that is wounded, in turmoil and pain," moderate leaders issue a call for prayer and "a return to the priorities and principles that have characterized this denomination from its beginnings."

50 years ago

Mississippi College in Clinton will hold its first presidential inauguration Mar. 19, when R.A. McLemore will officially accept the post he has held since last fall.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 6, 2008

VOL. 132

No. 10



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

A PROFESSIONAL MEETING ATTENDER

A few months ago, I had a conversation with a longtime denominational employee from another state. Somehow the conversation turned to the meetings that many of us are expected to attend. He said to me, "Sometimes people ask me what I do and I tell them that I am a professional meeting attender." I laughed and said, "You do what?" He said, "That is what I do. That is my job. I attend meetings. In fact, I am good at it and I enjoy attending meetings."

He was being more serious than I was, but I got serious and told him I really could not justify my life, ministry, and service just by attending meetings. In fact, I told him that it seems to me at times that we have meetings to plan meetings and afterwards we think we accomplished something. It was increasingly clear that we did not share the same philosophy about meetings, their purpose, how you gauge whether they mean anything, or the impact that takes place after the meeting. Still friends, we went our different ways but I could not forget his self-characterization — a professional meeting attender.

The more I pondered it, the less I thought of it. What kind of a spiritual gift does it take to be a professional meeting attender? When you stand before the Lord, He asks what you did on earth, and you answer, "I gave my body as a living sacrifice by attending meetings." I wonder what Jesus will say?

Please understand that I am not just picking on a friend and fellow servant in Baptist life, but it brought into realization some-



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

thing that may be painfully true for so many people in their spiritual walk. Their ultimate goal is to attend meetings. They attend meeting after meeting of all shapes and sizes: church meetings, Sunday School meetings, choir meetings, special committee meetings, planning meetings, organizational meetings, men's meetings, and wMu meetings. With just a little bit of imagination, you realize that there is no end to the list of meetings. Here is the problem. Not always, but sometimes and sometimes more than we would like to admit, we have a meeting and the significance and value of the meeting is ended and over at the end of the meeting. How can you be a part of meetings and not just be meeting for the sake of meeting?

First, you can personally and individually look for Jesus in the meetings you attend. You may be surprised that when you are looking for Jesus in the meeting, He may just show up. When something is being dealt with regardless of whether it is a program, plans for the future, or personnel issues, things will be different because we are in His presence.

The second thing is to make decisions in the meeting that will honor Jesus. If He is there and we are doing things that will bring honor to His name, the meeting has a good chance

of far exceeding the ordinary.

The third thing is to have a connecting point with the needs, the people, and the possibilities beyond the meeting itself. If you leave a meeting, whether it is a Sunday morning worship service or a Friday night fish fry, and your life is thrust out there on the edge where you are touching human hurts and personal burdens, the meeting will have been worth it. Have you ever been to a planning meeting that never culminated in plans that would touch lives? Have you ever been to a worship meeting and left without being challenged or pointed in the direction of touching a life for Christ beyond that room?

Recently at our Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference, John Avant, pastor of First Church in West Monroe, La., shared an interesting thing that he does in his church Sunday after Sunday. As he concludes the worship service, he tells his folks, "We have been the people of God in worship and now it is time for us to go and be the church." He is challenging them to leave the meeting, leave the building, and be the church by going out into the highways and byways, into the schools and businesses, and into the hospitals and homes to carry the name of Jesus and love people as He would love them. We do not need to be professional meeting attenders unless the meeting culminates with us taking a step forward in our walk with Christ to make a difference in our world.

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

A must read...

Inside Information

Worship Wars, Calvinism,
Elder Rule, Prayer, Language,
New Testament, Tithing
and more

JOHN R. BISAGNO • Amazon.com • Borders.com • or call 1-800-909-2005

Purpose Driven Tours

All costs included, worry free travel.

A Mississippi owned Christian Company.

Call 601-371-8733 for brochure or info.

- April 4-5: Gaither vocal band & Signature Sound in Pensacola & more, \$225 from Jackson
- April 28-May 3: Branson, Eureka Springs, Passion Play, 5 shows & more.
- June 9-28: The Wild West, 8 national parks, 15 states, Focus on the Family & much much more.
- July 11-19: Washington D.C. & Williamsburg
- July 25-August 25: Alaska & Canada by motor coach - breathtaking beauty

Sept. — Women of faith — Atlanta
Sept. — National quartet convention — Louisville
Oct. — New England in the Fall
Nov. — Christmas in Branson
Dec. — Christmas in the Smokies
Dec. — Opryland Christmas Nashville

All departures from Jackson & all expenses included

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP. FIRST MORTGAGE CHURCH BONDS EARN UP TO: 8.25%

These bonds may be placed in a self-directed IRA. Transfers and rollovers accepted, in most cases.

Interest Payable Quarterly

This announcement is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of an offer to buy. All offers are made by prospectus only.

GREAT NATION INVESTMENT CORP.
5408-A Bell • Amarillo TX 79109
Member NASD, SIPC

For more complete information about bond issues, obtain a prospectus which describes all of the particulars of the undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to availability.

CALL OR RETURN THIS TO:

Martin Northern 800-468-3007
PO Box 1302 501-316-3100
Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

WE TAKE THAT HANDS AND FEET THING SERIOUSLY

WE'RE CALLED TO BE JESUS' HANDS AND FEET in a world desperate to be sought by love and touched by grace. It's a serious thing to be called a Christian. It means leaving comfort behind and giving life to the least and the lost. It means using what God's given you to be change in the world. MissionLab will show you the way.

Now's the time to register your students for MissionLab. Gain a new level of mission experiences in a packed, fun, and camp environment.

Register online or call 1-877-TRY-MLAB
www.missionlab.com

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 6, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



VBS Leadership Trainings are back for '08!

April 21, North Oxford, Oxford

FBC, Louisville

FBC, Natchez

April 22, Gaston, Booneville

FBC, Belzoni

FBC, Purvis

April 24, Clarksdale, Clarksdale

FBC, Meridian

Schedule for all conferences:

6:30 p.m. Worship rally

7-9 p.m. Conference

CONFERENCES OFFERED

Outrigger Island

Younger Preschool Conference

Older Preschool Conference

Younger Children's Conference

Middle Children's Conference

Older Children's Conference

Youth Conference

Adult Conference

Pastor/Evangelism Conference

General Officer Conference

Special Ministries Conference

Children's Rotation:

Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks

Club VBS - Cactus Canyon



WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND YOUR CHURCH VBS LEADERSHIP TO BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING EVENT. WE GUARANTEE A FUN TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.

To register or for more information, contact Angie Boydston, Preschool/Children's Consultant with the Sunday-School Dept. at 601.292.3294 or 1.800.748.1651, ext 294, or by E-mail aboydstun@mbcb.org

Young Pastor's Retreat

"Dealing with the Stuff of Ministry"

Pine Ridge Lodge

Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, Miss.

(Highway 15 south of Louisville)

MARCH 28-29, 2008

2 p.m. on Friday - 1 p.m. on Saturday

For pastors age 30 and younger

Casual dress



The retreat brings together young pastors to focus on the essentials of ministry and good pastoral work in today's environment. Opportunities will be provided to network with other young pastors from across the state and dialogue about current realities in ministry. Plan to attend for your benefit and the benefit of other young pastors.

For more info, please contact Alan Woodward

• Phone: 601.292.3308 or 800.748.1651, ext. 308

• E-mail: awoodward@mbcb.org

• Fax: 601.714.7426

• Mail: C. Alan Woodward, PO Box 530, Jackson 39205-0530

Leaders

- Chuck Register
- John Temple
- Ron Mumbower
- Robin Nichols

Mississippi wMu Associational Missions Leadership Training

Called to Love...

Amazing Grace

April 18-19, 2008

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Registration of lodging and meals required.

Call Lisa Miller in the MS wMu office for registration form - 601-292-3317.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

1:30 - 2:00 General Assembly
2:15 - 3:15 Session 1 - Conferences
3:30 - 4:30 Session 2 - Conferences
4:30 - 5:30 Free time with options
5:30 - 7:00 Dinner & Worship
Celebration
(combined)
7:15 - 8:45 Session 3 - Conferences
9:00 Fellowship

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast with
Missions Moments
8:45 - 9:45 Session 4 - Conferences
9:45 - 10:00 Break
10:00 - 11:00 Session 5 - Conferences
11:15 - noon Session 6 - Idea Swap
12:15 - 1:30 Lunch & Commissioning of
Associational Teams
1:30 - 3:00 Optional planning -
Associational team planning
on your own.

FINANCIAL

Services

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

2008 Compensation Survey

Very Important for ALL Churches!

www.lifeway.com/compensationsurvey

Complete by April 15

Paper surveys are available for churches without internet connections. Contact Carol Taylor or Robin D. Nichols for information - Financial Services, "Retirement," 1.800.748.1651.

New IRS regulations concern churches

- (a) a policy statement for retirement plans
- (b) severance packages for staff members that carry into a new calendar year.

Consult Richard Hammar's *Church and Clergy Tax Guide, 2008* for details.

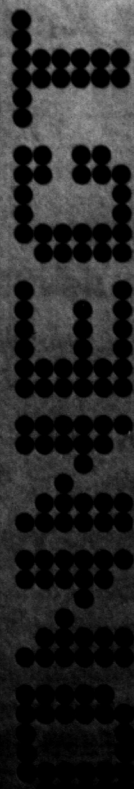
Super
Summer
08



July 14-18, 2008
Mississippi College

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS
UNITE WITH ONE VOICE AND PASSION.

PREPARE. WORSHIP. GO.



2008 Area
Preschool/Children's
Choir Leadership
Training



Saturday
August 2

NORTH
Harrisburg BC
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Tupelo, Miss.

SOUTH
FBC, Columbia
900 High School Ave.
Columbia, Miss.

- Materials and methods classes for all preschool, younger and older children's choir workers.
- Led by our state clinicians.

Registration: 8:30-9 a.m.
Conference: 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
No preregistration required
Cost: \$7 per person

All directors and teachers are encouraged to attend.

For more info, call the Church Music Department 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3271
Note: Music Leadership, July 10-12, FBC, Jackson, will be the central training event.

Sarah Talley, Preschool/Children's Contract Consultant, Church Music Department

Summer Youth Camps • Grades 7-12

JUNE 2-25, 2008

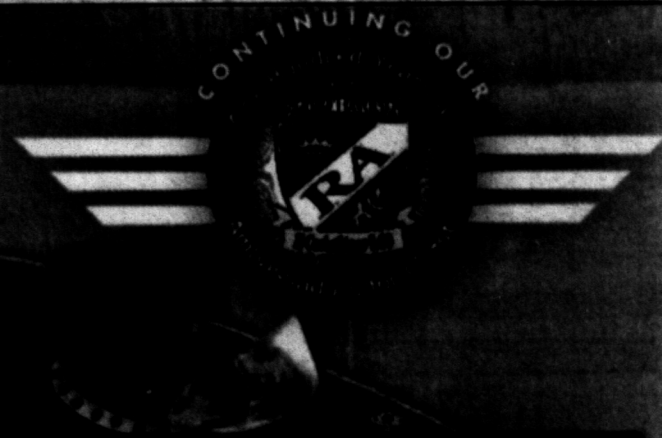
*Kinds Community College
Raymond, Miss.*



JUNE 2-25 Gary Permenter and Chris Layton
JUNE 2-25 Fish Robinson and TBA
JUNE 2-25 J.D. Simpson and Will Reedy
JUNE 2-25 Walt Barnes and Tom Edwards
JUNE 2-25 Josh Braddy and Tom Edwards

Huey Dedmon
student ministry specialist
1-800-748-1651 ext.
320
601-292-3320

**LAD/CRUSADER
Day**

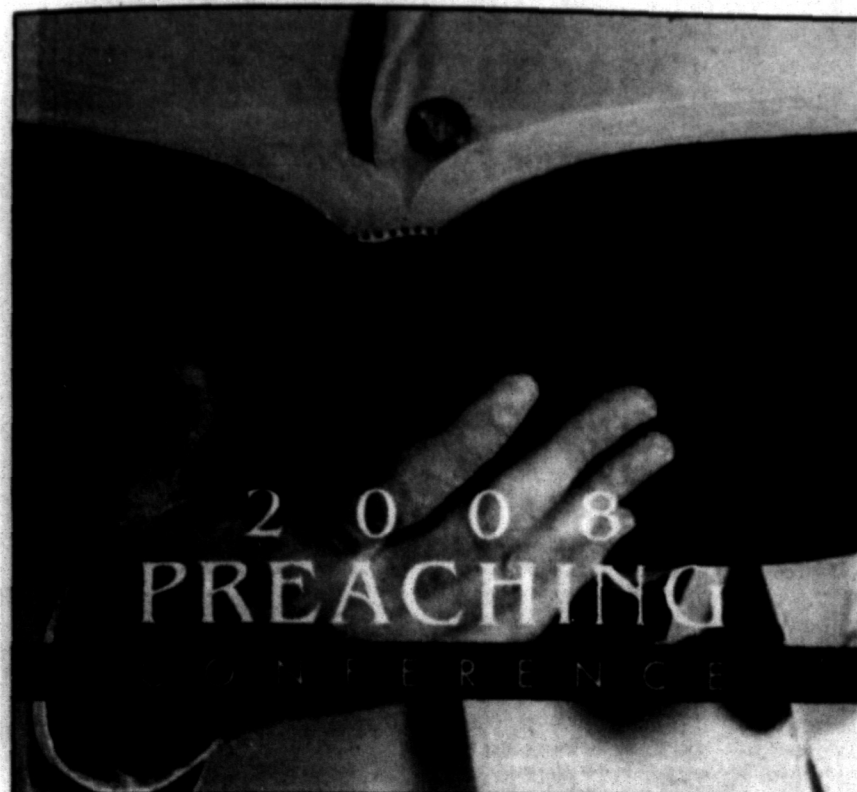


**STATEWIDE RACER COMPETITION
APRIL 12, 2008**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. / Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko

STATE MINISTRY
ASSISTANTS

*Bloom
and
Planted*



**FEATURED
PRESENTER**
Jerry Songer
*Interim pastor
First Baptist Church
Orangeburg, S.C.*

Monday, April 21
First Baptist Church
Louisville

Tuesday, April 22
First Baptist Church
Natchez

For more information, contact:
(601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651,
ext. 305, or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



**East Mississippi
Sisters Who Really Care Rally
"Running the Race"**

Saturday, May 17, 2008
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Lauderdale Association Office, Marion
Cost: Bring Someone With You!

*Enjoy a Saturday with Sisters – Inspiring Worship,
Sharing, Prayer and a fun Teatime are planned, espe-
cially for you!*

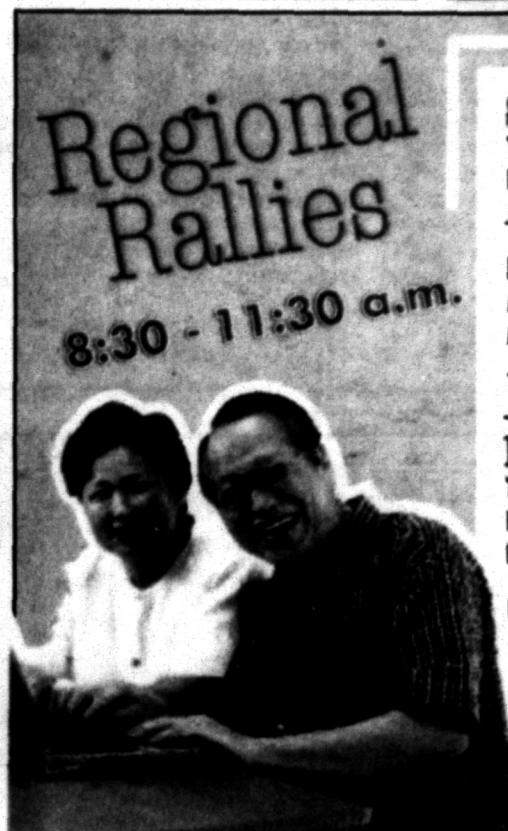
Don't miss it! Casual attire.

Questions? Call the Mississippi WMU, 601-292-3324 or 1-800-748-1651



**CHURCH FACILITIES & FURNISHINGS
WORKSHOP**

*Monday, May 14, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Parkway BC, Clinton
802 North Frontage Road*



Southern Regional Rally (\$1 at the door)
Tuesday, August 26 at William Carey University
Rally: Lincoln Choral, Brookhaven
J. Dennis Daniels, Congregational/Pastoral Care Ministry at FBC, Jackson

Break-outs:

*Fun Time with Kandi Anderson – humorist, radio personality, Gulfport, Miss.
Preparing for the Journey – Talmadge Smith, AMD, Brookhaven, Miss.
Seniors on Mission with God – Evelyn Williams, Newton, Miss.*

Northern Regional Rally (\$1 at the door/\$5 for lunch)
Thursday, August 28 at Blue Mountain College
Rally: Fairview Choir, Columbus
Bill Baker, former pastor at FBC, Clinton

Break-outs:

*Fun Time with "CW" – Gary Jackson, "CW" character on WFLA Radio, French Camp
Preparing for the Journey – Tom Crocker, LifeWay Consultant, Memphis, Tenn.
Seniors on Mission with God – Kay Cassibry, State WMU Director, MBCB*

Must preregister for meal by August 18.

To register call Blue Mountain College at 662-685-4771.

2008 Young Musicians' Camps
Blue Mountain College



July 14-18
Guest Director: Susan Messer
Minister of Music
Parkway Baptist Church
Atlanta, Ga.



July 21-25
Guest Director: Allen Harris
Minister of Music
North Oxford Baptist Church
Oxford, Miss.

For more info:
Church Music Department
601-292-3271
1-800-748-1651
stalley@mbcb.org

*Sarah Talley
Preschool/Children's
Contract Consultant
Church Music Department*



For more information, contact the Evangelism Department
601-292-3278 or E-mail jellis@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

March 7-20, 2008

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."
Philippians 3:12

(1) Georges Boujaky is the language director for the Kansas and Nebraska Convention. Praise God for the Hispanic Christian Festival in Great Bend, October 28, where many contacts were made. Pray for the follow-up of contacts from their festival; (2) Pray for God's blessing on the Hispanic work in Mississippi.

Substance Abuse Sunday (CAC Emphasis). Pray for God's protection over our youth who are exposed to drugs on an almost daily basis. Pray for them to have God's strength to continue to say "No," no matter how many times they are tempted to take illegal drugs.

Mike and Angela Balos are serving as church planters for the Cross Country Church in the Palmer/Wasilla area. Pray for the Balos as they plant this new congregation to intentionally target "country music" listeners and "cowboys."

Jim Ramsey is an Army chaplain serving with the US Cavalry deployed to Iraq. Praise God for His protection and His blessing of spiritual fruit in the lives of soldiers facing death on a daily basis. Pray for spiritual awakening among the troops.

David McDonald is the church planter for the Kearney/Grand Island area of Nebraska. Please pray for volunteers to do follow-up on all the contacts made during the summer Kid Clubs.

John Welch is the associate executive director for Vision San Diego, a Strategic Focus City (SFC). Praise God for providing staff and volunteers to infiltrate the San Diego culture for Christ. Pray for church planters and 100 churches willing to plant churches of various ethnicities.

Alan Au is the director of Vancouver Focus. Praise God for adding 30+ association churches and for strong partnerships. Pray for balance between Vancouver Focus, association and church as they strive to reach Vancouver for Christ.

Chris and Courtney Nichols are collegiate church planters. Praise God for providing a ministry center for Shawmut Springs Church, Boston, Mass. Pray for God's continued financial provision and for thousands of college students to come to Jesus, so they will need a second church.

There are a large number of Muslims living in Atlanta, Ga. Pray for God to raise up Christians who have a heart to reach this population. Pray for God to be working in their hearts and watering any truth that they have been exposed to. Pray for wisdom and love to abound in those already reaching out to them.

Butch and Vi Riek will be returning this winter to Gulf Shores, Ala., to serve as chaplains at the state park. Pray that God will open doors and prepare the hearts of "snowbirds" to receive the Gospel.

Rex Rains is the lead pastor for New Life Church, a church plant. Praise God for providing great leadership and all their needs. Pray for deacon selection, a second service, college ministry leadership, and God's provision to be full time.

Glenna Heidt is the prayer consultant for the Canadian Convention. Pray that before next summer's annual meeting in Charlottetown, PE Island, every community in Canada will be prayer walked and baptisms will increase. Pray specifically for the outreach to Muslims in the Montreal area.

(1) Pray for the Christian Education Clinic, Ridgecrest BC, Madison, (D&FM); (2) Tim Rice is a mobilization strategist with the South Carolina Convention. Pray for missionaries, associations and chaplains as they volunteer to feed, minister and share Christ with carnival workers and visitors at the State Fair in Columbia in October.

Ramdan Tjahjadja is a church planter for Indonesian Baptist Mission Church, started on April 9, 2006, at International Mission Center in Norcross, Ga. They started two more fellowships in Roswell and Snelville, Ga. Praise the Lord!



Mississippi Family **FEST** on the Gulf Coast July 26-30, 2008



Location: Jackson County

Cost: \$25 per person (\$50 maximum for immediate family members), includes program fee, t-shirt, breakfast and lunch meals, plus dinner on Wednesday evening.

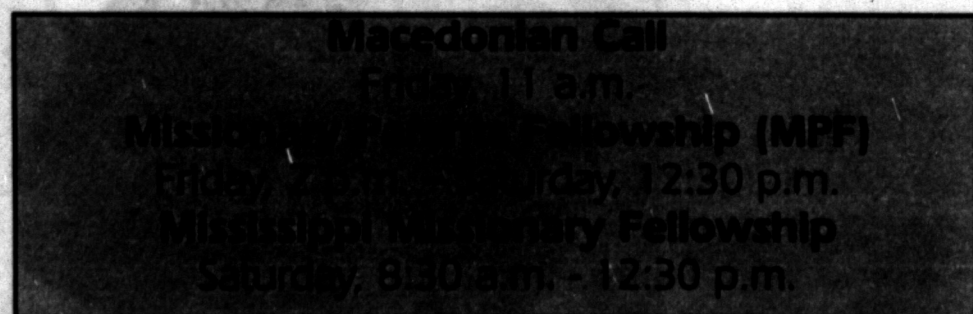
Types of Ministries: Light Construction/Painting, Community Service & Outreach, Children's Ministries, Acts of Kindness

How to Register: Request a registration packet by calling MS wMu at 800-748-1651, ext. 317, or E-mail lmiller@mbcb.org.

This event is co-sponsored by the Family Ministry Team, Men's Ministry, Mississippi wMu, Jackson Association, and participating local churches.

For more information, please contact Don Gann (dgann@mbcb.org) in Men's Ministry or Tammy Anderson (tanderson@mbcb.org) in Mississippi wMu at 800-748-1651.

MMF & MPF Retreat - April 18-19 GARAYWA



Register with Alicia Dungan, 601-924-7034 or adungan@mbcb.org

Encourage an MK with a card!

5-1-89

MR. B.H.

Parents: M & P
Last Frontier

5-3-99

MISS ADRIANN S.

Parents: Jerry & Kelly
Last Frontier

5-5-00

MR. PATRICK N.

Last Frontier

5-14-99

MR. JACKSON HOLEMAN

Parents: Jeff & Liesa
South America

5-14-90

MISS KELSEY HORTON

Parents: Francis & Angie
Baptist Global Response

5-15-96

MR. PATRICK AUSTIN

Parents: Arnold & Susie
South America

5-16-91

MR. KONNER HORTON

Parents: Francis & Angie
Baptist Global Response

5-16-96

MR. MICAH J. PEACOCK

Parents: Kevin & Brenda
Middle America & the Caribbean

5-16-00

MISS ADDIE GRACE PUTNAM

Parents: Tracy & Genie
Central & Eastern Europe

5-20-88

MR. JOHN R. McCALL

Parents: Dennis & Margaret
CESA

5-23-01

MISS ANNA CLAIRE

Parents: Jim & Penni
Last Frontier

5-29-03

Mr. C.S.

Parents: S & M
Last Frontier

5-31-02

MR. SAMUEL SIMPSON

Parents: Adam & Kristen
Central & Eastern Europe

FOR SECURITY,
cards will be forwarded.
Please send all to: Child's
name, Parent's name,
MBCB wMu MK
Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS
39205

PLEASE NOTE:
Church members may send
a package of cards together;
cards do not have to be
sent individually to the
wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

NOBTS to offer bivo music course in Miss.

March 10 begins Reading Music: Harmony/Melody, the fourth of eight courses at six locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary.

The courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate

from New Orleans Seminary, plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$135.00. A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The eight courses are: Song Leading, Worship Planning, Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch, Reading Music: Harmony/Melody, Hymnology, Music Administration/Staff Relations, Survey of Music Resources, and Class Voice.

The fourth course, Reading Music: Harmony/Melody, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison, beginning March 24 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher. (601) 924-1233.

- First Church, Booneville, beginning March 25 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher. (662) 728-6272.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian, beginning March 10 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher. (601) 681-6615.

- First Church, Greenwood, beginning March 25 (6:30-8:30

p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher. (601) 924-1233. Barry Bouchillon, assistant teacher (662) 453-5935.

- First Church, Louisville, beginning May 3 (8:00 a.m.-12 noon). Billy Bowie, teacher. (662) 773-6246.

- Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, beginning March 24 (7-9 p.m.). Mark Hamilton, teacher (601) 894-5848.

The listed teachers may be contacted for more information, or contact Jimmy McCaleb at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

FCPF US FCAX GCPDF
HARSOGG IUFC FCB KAXFC
FCO DATE VOGXB, PRE
GCPDF WODUOJO UR
FCURO COPTF FCPF MAE
CPFC TPUGOE CUK STAK
FCO EOPE, FCAX GCPDF WO
GPJOE.

TAKPRG FOR:RURO

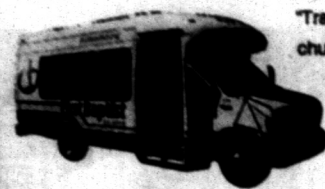
Clue: X = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen

TRANSPORTATIONSOUTH

The Bus Center

Responsive to YOUR needs.



"Transportation South was very responsive to the needs of a growing church and sensitive to the limits of a church committee environment. They have been honest, straightforward and very quick to answer all of our questions. We look forward to doing more business with Transportation South in the future."

Greg Stephenson
Committee Member
First Baptist Church
Decatur, Alabama

View our huge selection of new and used buses at www.thebuscenter.com
TOLL FREE: 800.367.9463

DISCOUNT
SERVING BUS & VAN INDUSTRIES SINCE 1972



BAY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Bay Springs, Mississippi

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Sunday, March 9, 2008
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales
info@msaudiollc.com

P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

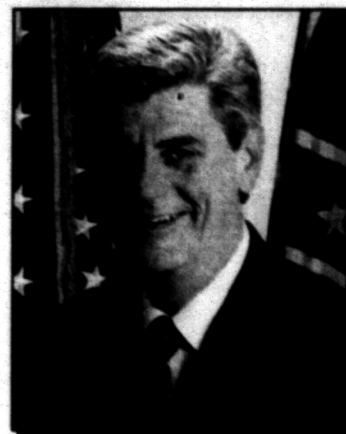
COLLEGE NEWS

1. **Mississippi College's Table Tennis Team** will advance to national championship competition in Minnesota after winning the Dixie Division tournament in Hattiesburg. MC's four student players from China are booked for games in Rochester, Minn. April 11-13 after recently beating out such schools as the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, the University of West Florida, and the University of New Orleans on the USM campus.

2. **Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant** will soon utilize his decades of experience in state and national politics to return as a part-time faculty member at his alma mater, Mississippi College. He's expected to begin his new teaching duties by the summer on the Clinton campus.

3. **The Mississippi College singers** performed for 1,000 choral directors from around the south at a convention of the Southern Division of the American Choral Directors Association Mar. 6.

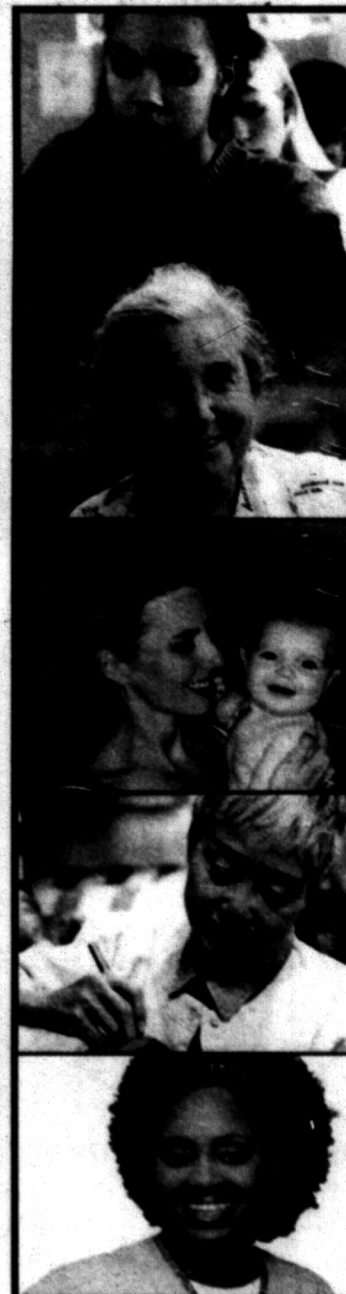
4. **William Carey University** will present Preview Day 2008 Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Prospective students will learn about admissions, scholarship opportunities, financial aid, and student life at Carey. For more information about Preview Day 2008 or to obtain admission materials, call (601) 318-6103 or (800) 962-5991 ext. 103 or visit the website at www.wmcarey.edu.



2. Phil Bryant



3. MC Singers



Do You Know A Strong Woman?

One who perseveres, a leader, mentor, defender, or a young woman filled with potential.

Nominate her online at
www.mbhs.org
by April 6, 2008.

The five winners will be announced on May 1st during "A Celebration of Strong Women." All nominees and nominators will receive a letter with details about the luncheon. Brought to you by Baptist for Women, Lifetime Television for Women and Comcast Spotlight.

Baptist
for WOMEN

601.948.6262 or 1.800.948.6262

OBITUARY

Joseph Wayne Tatum, 39, of Picayune died Nov. 26, 2007. Services were held at Roseland Park Church, Picayune, with internment in the Rolling Hills Baptist Cemetery. Tatum was pastor of Rolling Hills Church, McNeill. He was a graduate of Picayune High School, Pearl River Community College, William Carey University, and New Orleans Seminary. Survivors include his wife, Cindy Croney Tatum, Picayune; parents, John and Tommie Tatum, Picayune; son, Ezekiel Wayne Tatum, Picayune; and brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Christie Tatum, Walnut.



Tatum

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Fredonia Church, New Albany**, has called **Kelby Johnson** as minister of music and youth. Johnson comes from the same position at First Church, Mize. He is shown with his wife Jessie and sons, Adin and Andrew.

2. **Cold Springs Church** welcomes their new Pastor and wife West and Nicole Garner effective February 3. He & his wife Nicole are coming from Memorial Baptist, Richton, MS. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and is currently enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. They are expecting their first child in April.

3. **Joe Turner** has resigned as senior pastor of **First Church, Horn Lake**, and is available for supply, revivals, and conferences and may be reached at (901) 603-7745

4. **Bissell Church, Tupelo**, has called **Paul Reed** as minister of music. Reed is a Tupelo native and has served in several surrounding churches. **Roger Smith**, pastor.

5. **Liberty Church, Noxapater**, has called **Jim Pender** as pastor. He comes to Liberty with his wife, **Loretta**, from Weir Church, Choctaw Association, where he pastored for six years.



1. Johnson and family



2. Garners, Cold Springs Church

MS POSITIONS

ASSOC. MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Resumes are being received for associational missions director, Lincoln Baptist Association. Please send resumes to Lincoln Baptist Association, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Deadline to receive resumes is March 15, 2008.

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Collins, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resumes to personnel committee, P.O. Box 1628, Collins, MS 39428 or email to pastor@salembaptistcollins.org.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH. Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of music and/or youth. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to parkviewp@bellsouth.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON, Miss., is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the staff position of minister of music and worship. Resumes may be submitted in writing to Dr. Kevin Cooper, associate pastor of worship and students, c/o FBC Brandon, 309 S. College St, Brandon, MS 39042. Or email to

KLCooper@FBCBrandon.com and cc: DLott@FBCBrandon.com.

EAST MOSS POINT BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson County, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to East Moss Point Baptist Church, pastor search committee, 7842 Misty Meadow Dr., Moss Point, MS 39563.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS, is currently accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS, 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

FBC OLOH, is currently accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Please submit resumes to First Baptist Church Oloh, attn: pastor search committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS. 39482.

FBC ROLLING FORK, MISS., is seeking a full-time or part-time minister of music. Position includes salary and house. Youth experience would also be helpful but not necessary. Please send resumes to Andy Anderson, FBC, of Rolling Fork; 73 North Second Street, Rolling Fork, MS 39159.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

First Church, Bellevue: Revival, Mar. 6 - 9; Thurs. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:15 a.m.; Donnie Guy, speaker; Dewey Smith, pastor.

Kreole Ave. Church, Moss Point: Revival, Mar. 9 - 12; Sun., 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mom. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott McDowell, speaker and chalk artist.

First Church, Lambert: Centennial Celebration, Oct. 5; seeking photographs, artifacts, or other church memorabilia; call (662) 326-7772 or 326-5580 for information.

Silver Springs Church, Osyka: Homecoming and 125th anniversary, Apr. 27; services, 10 a.m. - noon, followed by dinner on the grounds; Donnie Bond, speaker.

River Bend Church, Aberdeen: Revival, Mar. 9 - 12; Sun., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; James Messer, speaker; Phillip Willis, music; Roy McHenry, pastor.

Liberty Church, Noxapater: Revival, Mar. 16 - 19; Sun., 5:45 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randal Creel, speaker; Dennis Duran, music; Jim Pender, pastor.

Fredonia Church, New Albany: Revival, Mar. 30 - Apr. 2; Sun., worship 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 6:30 p.m. (Youth night); Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Sr. Adult lunch, Tues., 11 a.m.; children's night, Wed., 6 p.m.; Ricky Blythe, speaker; Randy Wood, music.

www.mbc.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit www.turnerinsuranceonline.com.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT: 2 bedrm 2 bath, full kitchen, great view of National Park, \$95.00/night. Call for information (281) 855-4469 or (832) 922-0401/0141. Email pdw4760@att.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MONROE, LOUISIANA is seeking a full-time minister of music gifted in leading a blended worship service with an outstanding adult choir and instrumentalists. Email resumes to Dr. Alan Miller, amiller@monroeabc.com, or send to 201 St. John Street, Monroe, LA 71201.

SMOKE-FREE BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO nightly rental. Like home, all new furnishings, street level, no steps, breathtaking view. Sleeps 6, no

pets. Call (888) 879-0388 or Bucmom71@aol.com.

FBC, THOMSON, GEORGIA, is seeking a full-time minister of education/family ministries. For job description, see www.firstbaptistthomson.org/meducation.html. Send resumes to personnel committee c/o Dr. Jim Ramsey, Pastor, P.O. Box 1205, Thomson, GA 30824.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, krinklglas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE: 3.9 state to state, 3.9 in state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-866-587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtdt.

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME seeking Christian House parents for boys home located in Northwest Alabama. For more information, please call (256) 356-8900 or (256) 810-4908.

AFFORDABLE BEACHFRONT & beachside vacation condos. Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Best value on the beach! Lowest Prices! Over 50 top quality condos! Your satisfaction is our top priority, owned & operated by christian family since 1988, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524, www.gulfshorescondos.com.

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN BEACH RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER, Orange Beach, Alabama. Directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Ideal for church beach retreats. From 10 to 150 people, \$30 per night per person. A ministry of Romar Beach Baptist Church. Call (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages.

Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.

Wellington Associates, Inc.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Where God Is at Home

1 Corinthians 3:9-17; 6:12-13, 18-20

By Rick Henson

The Federal government has over 290 million Susan B. Anthony dollars in storage because the American people refused to use them as currency. Do you suppose the people of this country refused to use the Susan B. Anthony dollar because it bore the image of a woman, or because they did not think it was worth a dollar, or maybe because the odd design created the illusion that the coin was not round? No, the American people rejected the Susan B. Anthony dollar for one reason alone - it looked too much like a quarter.

In the same way God will not use thousands of American Christians in His service. God

refuses to use these people in building His kingdom and in accomplishing His will on earth as it is in heaven because these Christians look too much, live too much, talk too much, and behave too much like lost people. Titus 2:14 reads, "He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a special people, eager to do good works." The Greek word in the verse translated "special" may also be translated "one's possession." God desires that we are exclusively His, not just for one hour a week every other week.

If you must clean up your language to go to church, and you have been a Christian more



Henson

than a few months, then you are living a double life. God will not use what God does not have, and if you are living a double life, God does not have you. If you tell jokes at work that you would never tell at church, then you are not living for Jesus Christ at work.

God saves us to use us, and for that to happen, we must be clean before God. In the Old Testament God was present in Israel in the Tabernacle and in the Temple. God told His people that the time would come, however, when God would reside in their hearts. Jeremiah 31:33 reads, "the LORD's declaration." I will place My law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people." The Apostle Paul echoed that verse when he told the church at Corinth, "since it is plain that you are Christ's letter, produced by us, not written with ink but

with the Spirit of the living God; not on stone tablets but on tablets that are hearts of flesh, 2 Corinthians 3:3.

Our key verse this week is 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Don't you know that you are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" God's sanctuary is where He lives. When you gave your heart to Christ, God's presence came to live in you. His presence, the Holy Spirit, teaches, corrects, convicts us, and leads us to truth. When we stray from God's plan, His Holy Spirit communicates that to us. In a passage about godly living, Paul wrote, "And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit, who sealed you for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30.

The people in our society believe and teach that sex is recreational and that it may be separated from a relationship. God's word teaches that sex is reserved for marriage. Any sex outside of marriage is a sin. Paul warned the believers at Corinth that their bodies were

where the Lord lived. He still resides in the lives of His believers.

When we practice society's view of sex instead of the Scripture, we become like the Susan B. Anthony dollar. God will not use what God does not have. 2 Timothy 2:21 teaches, "So if anyone purifies himself from these things, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work."

A popular chorus says, Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true. With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for You. Are you where God lives? Is Jesus in your heart? If so, are you taking Him places He'd rather not go? Are you including Him in sins He detests? Do not grieve the Holy Spirit with ungodly living. You professed faith in Christ. May your life match your profession.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Learning about God's Faithfulness

Genesis 29:16-17, 21-23, 26-27; 31:1-3, 38-42

By Marion D. Duncan

Jacob departed the pillar at Bethel a saved man with a new name and the promise of God in his heart. God is sovereign and can take the evil of men and use it to accomplish His purpose (Romans 8:28). God was faithful despite Jacob's deceitfulness.

The Supplanter, for the next twenty years, reaped the results of taking control of his life without acknowledging God as his Lord. Thus, two events began the subduing of Jacob, a process which must follow a salvation experience. Jacob took into his own hands finding a wife and accumulating wealth.

As Jacob crossed into Mesopotamia, he saw a well in a field. He engaged the shepherds, who were gathered there with their flocks, asking their origins and if they knew Laban-the Ebenezer Scrooge, hard-as-

flint, uncle he sought. In the distance approaching the well, came Rachel, a shepherdess, whom they identified as Laban's daughter. When Rachel returned home with the news of meeting Jacob, Laban hurried out to him and welcomed him with open arms. After a month, Laban asked Jacob about paying him wages for the excellent work he was doing. They agreed that, after working seven years, Jacob could marry Rachel, Laban's younger daughter. Even though it seemed to please Laban for him to marry Rachel, Jacob realized he had met his deceitful match in Laban. When the wedding took place, it was Leah, the older, less attractive daughter, who was behind the veil. In Jacob's joy and exhilaration and, perhaps overindulgence in wine at the occasion, he did not realize



Duncan

until the next morning that his bride was not his beloved Rachel. When confronted by an irate Jacob, Laban promised him that he could marry Rachel, also, if he worked for him seven more years. This is impor-

tant-Jacob's multiple marriages were not God's desire, but He still blessed Jacob with many children and through these children carried out His promise to multiply Jacob's descendants. God is faithful even when we are victims of other's deceit.

Jealousy plagued Jacob's family from within and without. A fierce rivalry for Jacob's attention and devotion developed between his wives and their servants. Jacob approached Laban desiring to return to the land of his fathers with his wives and children. However, having discovered through the use of omens (divination) that his prosperity was a blessing from Jacob's God because of Jacob, Laban was not willing to release him.

They agreed Jacob would continue tending Laban's flocks, breeding superb animals for Laban and building flocks for himself utilizing the plan revealed by God to him in a dream (Genesis 31:10-12 NIV). Notice that Jacob's accumulated wealth was the work of the Lord, not anything done by Jacob.

Laban's sons complained that the wealth Jacob was building came at the expense of their father. Jacob heard what they were saying and began to notice that Laban's attitude toward him was changing for the same reason. Thank God for His faithfulness to us even when others are hostile toward us.

Jacob sent for Rachel and Leah and told them God's plan for him to leave this land at once and go back to his homeland. They agreed to do what God had told him. Without Jacob's knowledge, Rachel stole her father's gods and took them with her. Jacob left secretly with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed toward Gilead.

After three days when Laban

was told Jacob had fled, he and his relatives pursued Jacob and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. That night in a dream, God warned Laban not to take any action toward Jacob. When Laban confronted him about his leaving in secret and taking his gods with him, Jacob told Laban if he found the gods among his possessions, then the person responsible would die. Rachel concealed the gods in her camel saddle on which she was sitting so they would not be found.

Jacob reminded Laban of his faithful work for twenty years. The two agreed to a peace covenant between them setting up a pillar under a heap of stones as a witness to it. Laban called it Galeed-The Heap of Witness-and Mizpah-The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another. Rather than a lovely sentiment, as some think, this was a warning to Jacob. Before he slept, Jacob offered a sacrifice and invited his relatives to a meal.

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record



1. Deacon ordination, New Prospect Church



5. Fredonia Church mission trip to Costa Rica



8. Petal-Harvey Church Mission Friends



9. Lakeshore Church youth



11. Gillsburg Church senior citizens

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. New Prospect Church, Olive Branch, ordained Kevin Joyner and Paul Bratcher as deacons. Shown are Joyner, pastor Bob Curtis, and Bratcher.
2. The GAs and leaders of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, held a tea party for the wMu ladies Feb. 13 to show their appreciation for what they do and the inspiration they give.
3. Park Haven Church, Laurel, will host their 5th annual drive-through crucifixion Mar. 14 - 15, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. For information, call (601) 649-0553 or 425-2150.
4. Central Church, Brandon, will present By His Grace quartet in concert Mar. 8, 6 p.m. Free admission.

5. A mission team from Fredonia Church, New Albany, ministered in Costa Rica Jan. 16 - 22 through VBS and construction work. Four people were saved. Shown are the participants.
6. The Choctaw Associational Evangelism Rally scheduled for Mar. 9 has been cancelled. Please make a note of this if you were planning to attend.

7. New Hope Church, Foxworth, will have a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., Sunday School at 7:30 a.m., and morning worship at 8:30 a.m. Easter, Mar. 23. No evening service.

8. The Mission Friends of Petal-Harvey Church, held a Warm Up Your Winter soup campaign to help the Children's Task Force in Petal. Special collection sacks were decorated by the children and placed around the church. Shown are the participants.

9. Fifteen youth and adults from Lakeshore Church, Jackson, attended the 2008 Winter Jam Spectacular at the Mississippi State Coliseum Mar. 23, with over 10,000 in attendance. Shown are the participants.

10. Calvary Church, New Augusta, will host its annual Turner Memorial Day service Mar. 9. Worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch.

11. The Women on Mission of Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg, treated the senior citizens to a Valentine's luncheon Feb. 10 with some 75 guests attending.

12. Pleasant Grove Church, Maud, received a \$1,000 check for their building fund. Shown are P.J. Scott, pastor Brady Barnes, M.C. Johnson, and Robert Lenair.

13. Zachary Irby, of Branch Church, Morton, collected food for the crisis center in Forest as part of a personal growth plan in RAs.

14. The children's choir of Goss Church, Columbia, presented the musical The Christmas Present recently. Shown is the choir.

15. Terry Bennett, First Church, Oloh, prepared a special Nicaraguan meal for the church, with donations going toward the purchase of Bibles in Nicaragua.



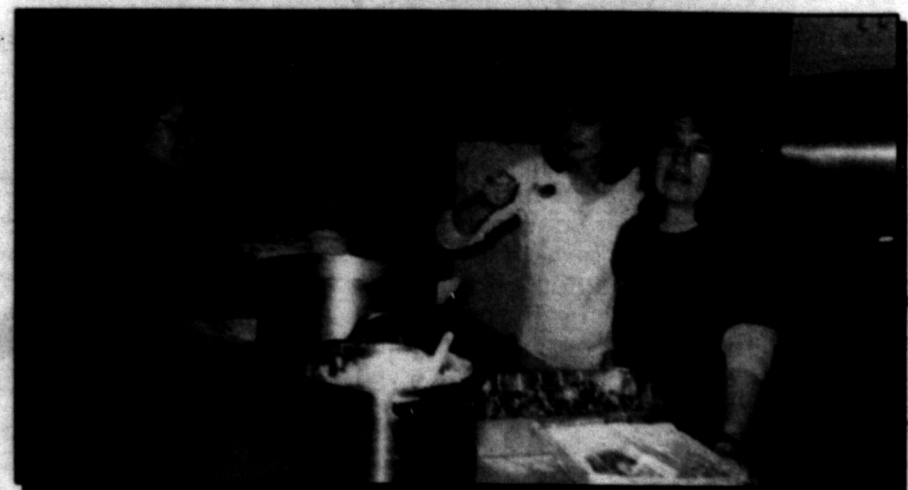
12. Pleasant Grove Church receives check



13. Zachary Irby, Branch Church, Morton



14. Children's choir, Goss Church



15. Nicaraguan meal, First Church, Oloh